## What will Kendall County look like in 30 years?

By Matt Schury

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That's one question that Hubert Morgan, principal planner, for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency, asked plan commissioners from Kane and Kendall Counties last week during a Kendall County Planning Consortium

meeting.

Morgan also spoke about the way officials approach planning in their

Morgan's appearance came on the cusp of the agency rolling out their Go To 2040 project to the public.

CMAP will host a workshop for public input on the plan at the Kendall County Health Department, 811 John Street in Yorkville, on Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The project, when completed next year, will develop a vision for planning in a seven county northeastern Illinois area of which Kendall County is a member. Earlier this year CMAP selected Yorkville as one of 16 specific communities in the region for which it would develop a planning document looking 30 years into the future.

Specifically architects focused on the Grainco property in downtown Yorkville on East Hydraulic Avenue near the Fox River as the central planning area. Plans also encompassed Route 47, the Fox River shore and the rail line that runs through downtown.

through downtown.

Yorkville Plan Commission Chair Yorkville Plan Commission Chair Anne Lucietto said she asked Morgan to speak because she wanted to get plan commissioners from other towns in the area involved in what CMAP is doing.

"I don't think it's fair that Yorkville got all of the attention," she said. "I felt that we need to look at it on a little bit more of a countywide scale so they can get an idea of what Kendall County is all about because they know what Lake County is all about and Cook County."

Morgan explained that CMAP is a regional planning agency that has been around for about three years.

"This year we are celebrating the centennial of tremendous planning for this part of the country. Daniel Burnham's plan, which made a big statement about planning big and bold," he said.

an said that on a local level plan sioners need to take a sense of what they do and engage the

e asked plan commissioners to think ut what they do locally and what

challenges they are facing.

"What are those things that are pressing you locally that we should be thinking about regionally as an agency."

Morgan asked.

Sandy Bell, a planner from Big Rock said, that her community is trying to maintain open space while not increasing the tax burden on services for residents.

Judy Helm, village president of the Millbrook, said the town of about 300 chose to incorporate to preserve their agricultural heritage and keep development at bay. However, she added that the town also needs to find revenue sources to maintain services in the

Montgomery Village Board member Andy Kaczmarek said the village is slanning for a Metra commuter rail Park-Ride. He wanted to know how CMAP was planning for public transit services. Scott Gryder, a member of the Oswego lan Commission, said his community topes to expand Metra service to the oldered

dd Wormley, from Millbrook, said ad an idea to bring excursion steam s to the area as was done in parts of

JE.

Wisconsin but mainly wanted to see the area stay rural.

Jim Torri, a planner form Joliet, said that city has taken a pro-growth approach, contrary to of the smaller communities in the southern portion of the Kendall County.

"City officials saw what had happened in the 70's and decided to adopt a take-it-while-they-can-get-it approach to growth," Torri explained.

He added that Joliet is looking into adding an intermodal transit system to

Jim Eckert, from the Sugar Grove Plan Commission, said the village is dealing with empty lots after developers went bankrupt.

Morgan talked about three scenarios that the agency emphasizes: preserving, reinvesting and innovation.

He said that preserving the character and heritage of a community is important in dealing with growth.

"Think about that ice cream shop you used to go to as a child," he said. "Now ask your children what they value in their community—that's the future?"

He said reinvesting in a community is important to create jobs closer to home to avoid a bedroom community scenario. "One question we are asking is what will our populations be in 20 or 30 years and how many jobs will we have?" he

Addressing the apprehension about developing farmland, Morgan said that it is important to recognize that Kendall County has some of the richest agricultural land in the nation.

"Once that is used for urbanization

"Once that is used for urbanization you cannot go back and plant," he said.



the CMAP report. One view of how downtown Yorkville may look in 2040, from